

ODP-83-573

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Intelligence Information
Handling Committee

THROUGH: Deputy Director for Administration
Deputy Director for Intelligence
Deputy Director for Operations
Deputy Director for Science and Technology
Executive Director

FROM:

[Redacted]

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CIA Member,
Intelligence Information Handling Committee

SUBJECT: CIA Participation in and Commitment to the
Community Information Retrieval System (CIRS)
and RECON GUARD Projects

REFERENCES: A. Report of The Intelligence Information
Handling Committee on the Community
Information Retrieval System (CIRS), dtd
Sept 82
B. Report of the Bibliographic System Study
Working Group, dtd 5 May 80

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to specify the nature and extent of Agency participation in and commitment to the Community Information Retrieval System (CIRS) and RECON GUARD projects.

Community Information Retrieval System (CIRS)

2. The IHC CIRS project is the result of a series of studies directed toward improving information handling in the Intelligence Community. Though supportive of the overall goals of the CIRS project, the action plan, as presented in Reference A, raises many unanswered questions. Until these management, resource, and security concerns are satisfactorily addressed and resolved, we have no choice but to proceed with considerable caution.

3. Accordingly, the Agency will limit its participation in the CIRS effort, at this stage, to providing a member to the CIRS Management Group as well as representatives to the various CIRS working groups. Although the Agency supports CIRS objectives, it should be reiterated that involvement in these management and

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working groups does not imply an Agency commitment to connect to CIRS. CIA will review the CIRS project, and the issue of CIA participation, on an annual basis and at the completion of each of its implementation phases.

RECON GUARD

4. The Office of Research and Development RECON GUARD project was initiated in accordance with Recommendation No. 1 of Reference B. This recommendation proposed the COINS network as the means to make the Agency RECON data base available to the Intelligence Community. The Agency is committed to completing the development and testing of the RECON GUARD system and will provide the necessary facilities and personnel. The Agency is not committed, at this time, to a permanent connection of the RECON data base through RECON GUARD to COINS. A decision on that issue awaits the completion of the RECON GUARD test and a careful consideration of all relevant factors. Currently, the CIA commitment to the RECON GUARD project is limited to the following:

- a. The installation and testing of RECON GUARD equipment, connected to the RECON data base, in the Ruffing Computer Center.
- b. The procurement by ORD of specialized network testing equipment to be used to increase the efficacy of the testing process. This equipment permits rigorous testing of RECON GUARD prior to connection to the COINS network. This testing phase represents an unfunded requirement of up to \$250K.
- c. Following the successful completion of special network testing, CIA will temporarily install COINS Host Access System (HAS) equipment, supplied by the COINS Project Management Office (PMO), in the Ruffing Center. The HAS equipment will be connected to the RECON GUARD equipment and the COINS network.
- d. On a limited basis, and for testing purposes only, data from the CIA RECON data base will be transmitted to the COINS network through the RECON GUARD and COINS HAS equipment.

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5. Following testing, the HAS and RECON GUARD equipment will be removed from the Ruffing Center. The COINS HAS equipment will be returned to the COINS PMO and the RECON GUARD and network testing equipment to the Office of Research and Development.

6. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being drafted between the COINS PMO and the Agency. This MOU states the purpose and temporary nature of the COINS HAS equipment arrangement as well as defining the responsibilities of each party regarding the installation, operation, maintenance and removal of the equipment. When mutually agreeable language has been found, the MOU will be signed and planning for COINS HAS equipment installation can then be initiated.

7. Should there be any questions on these subjects, please do not hesitate to call me

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CONCUR:

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